

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for examining the claims of the present application and finding that claims 16-57 are allowable. By this amendment, applicants are amending claims 1, 38, 39, 40, 47, 52, and 53, and adding new claim 58. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-58 will be pending in the application.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. (Office action at pg. 2.) In particular, the Examiner cites the preamble of claim 1 and states that “there isn’t any step for applying spare memory resources to a memory under test” and cites lines 5-7 of claim 1 and suggests that the phrase “updating a record of column defects . . . , the record of column defects indicating the defects not repaired by spare rows” is not clear. (Office action at pg. 2.) Applicants traverse the rejection. In the interest of expediting prosecution, however, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to address the Examiner’s concerns.

The preamble of amended independent claim 1 recites “[a] method of analyzing a repair strategy for a memory-under-test” and no longer includes the language cited by the Examiner.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite “updating a record of column defects at substantially the operating speed of the memory-under-test, the record of column defects indicating the defects of the memory-under-test not repairable by spare rows.” Exemplary embodiments of “a record of column defects” are described in the Specification as filed at, for example, page 19, line 19 to page 20, line 16.

Applicants submit that those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed in amended independent claim 1 when the claim is read in light of the specification. *See* MPEP 2173.02 (“The test for definiteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is whether ‘those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification.’”) (citations omitted).

Accordingly, the Examiner’s 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 depend from amended independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above with respect to claim 1. Further, dependent claims 2-15 are independently patentable because of the unique and nonobvious combinations of features set forth in each respective claim. Accordingly, the Examiner's respective § 112 rejections of dependent claims 2-15 should be withdrawn and such action is respectfully requested.

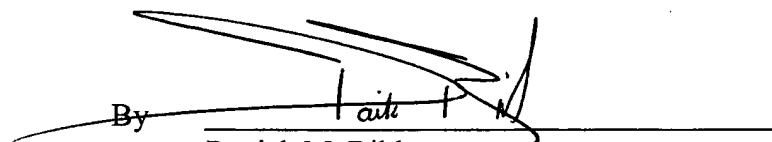
Applicants are also amending claims 38, 39, 40, 47, 52, and 53 to correct minor inconsistencies in the claims and adding new claim 58.

Conclusion

With entry of this amendment, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any further issues remain concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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